

Aircraft Operations Division User's Guide	JSC Reduced Gravity Program User's Guide	
	Doc. No. JSC 22803	Rev. C
	Date: March 1998	Page 28 of 28

6.6 TEST OPERATIONS

All test developers are urged to read Appendix J, An Investigator's Suggestions for Effective Use of the NASA JSC Reduced Gravity Program KC-135A Aircraft, for observations and helpful hints from a first-time flyer.

6.6.1 Preflight

The test equipment should be received at JSC Ellington Field in a timely manner to allow for buildup, inspection, and the TRR. The address to use for shipping is:

Reduced Gravity Office, Ellington Field
Building 993
Houston, Texas 77034

The buildup and checkout of test equipment is solely the responsibility of the test developer. All tools and checkout equipment must also be provided by the user since the shop facilities at Ellington are limited.

The TRR will normally be conducted in Building 993 one working day prior to the first flight. Test equipment, personnel, procedures, and documentation will be examined as indicated in Section 6.2.4. A simulated ground run may be required during this review whereby the test developer will demonstrate normal and contingency in-flight procedures. If approved for flight by the TRR, the equipment will subsequently be loaded on the aircraft. Previously approved equipment does not need to be reviewed unless it has been modified, although pressure vessels and systems will be periodically inspected. A list of modifications to previously flown equipment and changes to test procedures must be provided to the Zero-G Office no later than four weeks prior to flight.

A preflight safety briefing prior to boarding will be given to all flight personnel who have not flown on the aircraft within the previous six months. The briefing will cover the emergency equipment on board the aircraft and the emergency egress procedures. The briefing will be repeated every six months. Flight suits and boots will be issued the morning of the first flight at the conclusion of the safety briefing. The typical preflight schedule is as follows:

8:15 Safety Video
8:30 Boots and suits issue
8:45 Pilot Briefing
9:00 Board aircraft
9:30 - 11:30 Takeoff and flight

6.6.2 Flight Phase

All personnel on board the aircraft will be under the direction of the aircraft flight crew and test directors, both for normal and emergency conditions and test operations. The senior test director is in charge of all test activities, and the aircraft commander is the

Aircraft Operations Division User's Guide	JSC Reduced Gravity Program User's Guide	
	Doc. No. JSC 22803	Rev. C
	Date: March 1998	Page 29 of 28

final authority for all operations from boarding through deplaning. Strict adherence to the authority of these personnel will be rigidly enforced. Any deviation from the flight-test plan must be discussed with a test director before implementation.

6.6.3 Postflight

A postflight debriefing will be held immediately after landing to review any problems that occurred during the flight and to discuss possible alterations to the test hardware or test procedures.

Upon completion of the test phase, the equipment will be downloaded and prepared for shipment by the user. The user has the responsibility to ensure that all test articles and materials utilized in his/her test, including compressed gas cylinders, chemicals, packing, and crating, are removed promptly from Building 993 to make room for incoming users. It is the responsibility of the user to make arrangements for shipment of the test equipment. Be sure to advise your shipper that pickups must be made no later than 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday only.

The Reduced Gravity Office would greatly appreciate feedback in the form of summarized test results to better serve the user.